

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EUR-12 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-03 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 NRC-05 /118 W
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R 140040Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6056

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

ERDA GERMANTOWN

S E C R E T TAIPEI 4224

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TW, TECH

SUBJECT: MULTI-NATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTERS

TOKYO PASS ERDA REP.

ERDA FOR HUDGINS

REF: STATE 154049

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS INDICATIONS THAT ROC WANTS
TO OWN OR HAVE ACCESS TO REPROCESSING FACILITIES.
NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO, WORK WAS BEGUN ON A LABORATORY
SCALE REPROCESSING PLANT AT THE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR
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ENERGY RESEARCH (INER). THE STATED PURPOSE OF THIS
PLANT WAS TO GAIN EXPERIENCE IN SOME OF THE PROBLEMS
ASSOCIATED WITH FUEL REPROCESSING. FEED MATERIAL IS TO
BE SPENT PLATES FROM OPEN POOL REACTOR AT NATIONAL

TSING HUA UNIVERSITY. THIS PLANT WAS VISITED IN JUNE 1975, WITH THE ERDA PHYSICAL SECURITY TEAM HEADED BY VANCE HUDGINS. PLANT APPEARED TO BE AT LEAST SEVERAL MONTHS AWAY FROM COMPLETION. THERE IS OTHER RELATED LABORATORY WORK AT INER, SUCH AS EXPERIMENTS ON REDUCTION OF URANIUM COMPOUNDS TO METALLIC FORM. A PLUTONIUM LABORATORY HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED WITH FRENCH (ST. GOBAIN) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. ABOUT ONE KILOGRAM PU, OBTAINED FROM US AND BELGIAN SOURCES IS AVAILABLE FOR EXPERIMENTATION. LAB IS IN FAMILIARIZATION STAGE WITH PERSONNEL BEING TRAINED IN REQUIRED GLOVE-BOX MANIPULATIONS. MANAGEMENT STILL NOT SATISFIED WITH QUALITY OF INSTALLATION PARTICULARLY TIGHTNESS OF SEALS.

2. SOME IRRADIATED NATURAL URANIUM FUEL ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE 40MW CANDU RESEARCH REACTOR AT INER AND ARE COOLING DOWN IN WATER POOL STORAGE ADJOINING REACTOR. ALL ARE UNDER IAEA ACCOUNTING AND CAMERA MONITORING SAFEGUARDS. THE FIRST TAIPOWER REACTOR WILL NOT COME ON LINE BEFORE DECEMBER 1976. HOWEVER, TAIPOWER EXECUTIVES AS COMPETENT ENGINEERS AND PLANNERS, WITH SIX POWER UNITS SCHEDULED TO BE ON LINE BY 1985, HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THEIR NEED TO REACH FIRM REPROCESSING AGREEMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY SINCE EARLY 1974 WITH BNFL FOR REPROCESSING FOUR UNITS UP TO 1985, WERE DISCONTINUED IN MAY 1975 REPORTEDLY AT BNFL REQUEST.

3. PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH VICTOR CHENG, SEC GEN ROC/AEC, INDICATE ACCEPTANCE OF CONCEPT OF REGIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITY AND ITS SEVERAL ADVANTAGES, BUT WITH RESERVATIONS ON THE PRACTICABILITY OF LOCATING THIS IN ANOTHER ASIAN COUNTRY. HE RECOGNIZES THE PROBLEMS IN SITING MULTI-NATIONAL FACILITY IN TAIWAN AND HAS STATED A PERSONAL OPINION THAT A PLANT COULD BE LOCATED ON ONE OF US PACIFIC ISLANDS.

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4. INER CONTINUES TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL OF ALTERNATE FUEL CYCLES. STAFF MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO US TO STUDY MIXED OXIDE FUELS. SINCE TAIWAN HAS NO KNOWN URANIUM DEPOSITS, BUT DOES HAVE THORIUM BEARING MONAZITE SANDS, LABORATORY WORK ON THE THORIUM CYCLE IS CONTINUING.

UNGER

SECRET

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